

NEWS RELEASE



***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney
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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - May 29, 2008

United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced that Magdaleno Carreno, Jr., and Valentin Escobar-Chavez were arraigned today in federal court in San Diego before Magistrate Judge Cathy Ann Bencivengo on an eight-count indictment charging them with narcotics and firearms violations.

The indictment charges Carreno and Escobar-Chavez with Conspiracy to Distribute Methamphetamine, Distribution of Methamphetamine, and Possession of Methamphetamine with Intent to Distribute. The indictment further alleges that Carreno, who was previously convicted of alien smuggling, and Escobar-Chavez, an alien illegally in the United States, unlawfully possessed one Glock, model 27, .40 caliber pistol; one Glock model 30, .45 caliber pistol; and one Ruger, model SP-101, .38 caliber revolver.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Aaron B. Clark, who is prosecuting the case, the defendants were previously arraigned on a criminal complaint that charged them with distribution of a controlled substance. The complaint was superseded by today's indictment.

The defendants are next scheduled to be in court for a motions/trial setting hearing on July 14, 2008 at 2:00 p.m., before United States District Judge Marilyn L. Huff.

DEFENDANTS

Criminal Case No. 08cr1731-H

Magdaleno Carreno, Jr.

Valentin Escobar-Chavez

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Counts: 8

Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 846 - Conspiracy to Distribute Methamphetamine

Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1) - Distribution of Methamphetamine

Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1) - Possession of Methamphetamine with Intent to Distribute

Maximum Penalties: Life Imprisonment; \$4,000,000.00 fine

Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(g)(1) and 924(a)(2) - Felon in Possession of a Firearm

Title 18, United States Code, Sections 922(g)(5) and 924(a)(2) - Alien in Possession of A Firearm

Maximum Penalties: Ten years in custody; \$250,000 fine

AGENCIES

Drug Enforcement Administration

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives

An indictment itself is not evidence that the defendants committed the crimes charged. The defendants are presumed innocent until the Government meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.